



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WACO MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL GUN CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that JONATHAN DEWAYNE HICKS, 26, of Waco, was sentenced to twenty-four months in federal prison, three years supervised release and ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine for being unlawfully in possession of a firearm as a convicted felon.

On December 5, 2002, a search warrant was executed at the Defendant's residence where officers found a Star, .380 caliber pistol in the kitchen and .380 ammunition with the markings "FC 380 Auto" on the head stamp. The defendant has a 1997 felony conviction for Possession of Cocaine which prohibits him from owning a firearm.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Waco Police Department. Assistant United States Attorneys Doug Gardner prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government. The successful prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's new gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences. This commitment to reduce gun crime includes federal funding this year of over \$200 million, which is used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, and develop and promote community outreach efforts.

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